

The secretary of the Mission Board, J. C. Cassel, then made his report.

Annual Report of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, year ending July 31, 1898.

Contributed to Chicago fund,	\$ 995 13
" " Washington fund,	482 45
" " Dayton fund,	13 85
" " General fund,	625 89
" " Foreign fund,	220 26
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	\$ 2337 58
Paid to the Chicago Mission,	\$ 1277 14
" " " Washington Mission,	727 57
" " " Dayton Mission,	10 85
" " " Printing, Stationary and Traveling expenses,	118 87
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	\$ 2134 43
Balance,	\$ 203 15

Of the balance of \$203.15 on hand July 31, \$195.26 belongs to the foreign fund, leaving 7.89 in the General fund.

There were on Aug. 1, 1898 only 25 58 of recognized debts, that amount being due Eld. W. M. Lyon.

JACOB C. CASSEL,
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

Upon motion the report was accepted.

J. O. Talley further addressed the Conference on Methods of Missions.

Ten minute addresses were then in order by District evangelist.

California was called and failed to respond owing to there being no one present from their district.

The following responded for their districts: A. J. Hixson, Kanemorado; J. O. Talley, Illiokota; B. H. Flora, Indiana; J. M. Bowman, Ohio.

SATURDAY 1:30 P. M.

Conference was called to order by the chairman. Devotional exercises were conducted by L. W. Ditch.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

Moved and adopted that the minutes of this conference be published and issued in the EVANGELIST and in a form convenient to be bound in pamphlet.

Moved and adopted, that the moderator, Brother Tombaugh, be asked to have his sermon published in the EVANGELIST.

Ten minute addresses by the National Mission representatives: Washington, J. C. Cassel; Chicago, sister Sadie Gibbons; Dayton, Zed H. Copp.

These reports were quickening along missionary and church extension lines.

J. D. McFaden gave an earnest address on Mission work, and offered the following resolution which was adopted:

WHEREAS, Christ came to seek and to save the lost, and many of the lost are in the lowest depths of sin and misery, and whereas we are no stronger than our weakest point and the weak point is often found focused in our towns and cities,

Resolved, That while we are in sympathy with and rejoice in all true efforts to extend the kingdom of Christ and our well loved church, be it also,

Resolved, That we place our prayerful approval on city rescue work, believing it to be an essential part of the work in saving the world for Christ.

Conference took up the regular order of the afternoon, the first being the report of the secretary of Foreign Missions.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY REPORT

While there is a lamentable lack of interest throughout the church as a whole on the question of Foreign Missions, there are also encouraging signs here and there.

During the year two worthy sisters consecrated their lives to the foreign cause. They are sister Vianna Detwiler of Ridgley, Md., and sister Ethlyn Clark of Philadelphia, Pa. Their consecration is genuine. They are at the service of the church. As soon as the way is open they will enter the field. They need our prayers that the Lord will firmly hold them in readiness to go at any time, to any place. They also need training and preparation. The church should provide this, and not having a training school of our own, I would urge the consideration of the question as to where, and at whose expense they are to obtain their preparation.

There were also over two hundred dollars of cash paid into the Foreign Missionary fund during the year, and there are enough pledges unpaid to swell the amount to five hundred dollars or more. These are beginnings; some few are hearing the Savior's command to go, or to send and are trying to wash their hands from the blood of heathen, or Romanized souls.

One dear brother was so pressed with the burden of his responsibility that he sent me ten dollars for immediate appropriation, not to wait until we got our slow moving machinery into motion, so I had to send that to another board. I simply mention the incident to show that the Spirit of God is at work.

In Philadelphia we have organized a Foreign Missionary Society or rather we call it The World-wide Missionary Society. That is a better name. The object is Foreign Missions, but as expressed in the new name we can also assist in home work. We have some notion of sending out a secretary to organize World-wide Missionary Societies throughout the church, and if conference does not wake up pretty soon to the needs of work we may steal a march in it.

Three missionary conventions were held during the year, one at Milledgeville, one at Lanark and one at Enon. Out of a total of two hundred and eighteen dollars paid into the foreign fund one hundred and fifty-eight dollars were paid by the three churches named together with the Philadelphia church, (which is a continuous convention.) Besides that those four churches paid over one-fourth of the entire receipts of the home fund. I mention this to show that I have not overrated the importance of holding Bible and Missionary conventions in the local churches. In fact it is almost criminal to fail to do it. Willing hearts, glad to give if they understood their responsibility are denied the privilege, and dying souls fail to hear the gospel because the necessary preliminary work is not done. On this point decided action should be taken before we leave this ground either by conference or the general board.

There is one other point I want to refer to for the encouragement of all that become aroused to a sense of their responsibility before our foreign work is effectively launched. When one feels definitely called to consecrate his or her life to the cause of missions make the surrender and offer your service to the Board. The surrender and consecration is your part of the preliminary work, that once made, God no doubts reckons you a missionary whether you ever get into the field, or not, provided of course that there is absolute sincerity, an unmistakable call of the Spirit. If the church should fail to send you the responsibility will rest upon her. Just so with such as feel to contribute to the cause of Foreign Missions. Do not wait to see some of our own brethren or sisters in the field, as you may die, or lose your consecration before that happens even if it should occur this year, which is scarcely probable. If you make your offering in response to the Spirit's call it will be reckoned to your credit whether we get missionaries into the field in a year, or ten years. It is your duty and privilege to do the giving it is your Board's responsibility to do the appropriating and directing.

In this sense every newly awakened soul can at once enter upon the work of complying with the commission of Christ to preach the gospel to every creature. There will be opportunity given at this conference to consecrate either self or substance, and if new light and power comes into any life here, then here is the time and place to make your vow to God, and settle the question forever, and prove your sincerity by your action. It would be blessed to see some souls get victory during this conference. If any receive definite impressions here and leave without acting upon them, they are not likely to have the same vividness of them again. "Today if ye hear his voice harden not your hearts as in the provocation." If you do you may continue to live a provocation life and die in the wilderness. Consequently if your lips are "touched with a live coal and you hear the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send,' say 'Here am I, send me,'" or mine.

J. C. CASSEL.

Moved and adopted that the report of the secretary of Foreign Mission be accepted.

C. F. Yoder, secretary of the Missionary Circle made the following statistical report with an appeal to the Brethren not to remain longer in ignorance of the world's great spiritual need.

Number of members at beginning of year, 95; number of new members, 16; present membership, 111. Expenses for membership cards and postage, \$3.00; cash on hand at beginning of year, \$.60; receipts during the year, \$2.40.

C. F. YODER, Sec.

MONDAY, 9: A. M.

Devotional services conducted by J. B. Wampler.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.